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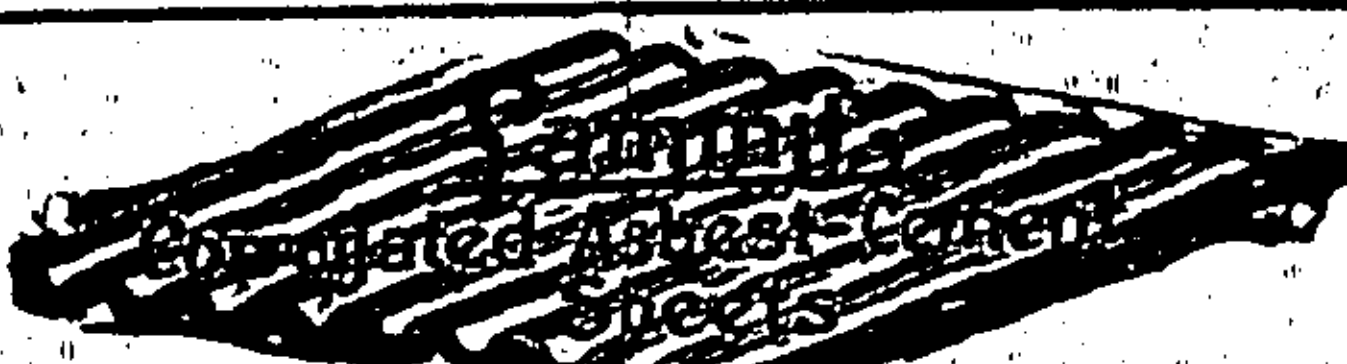
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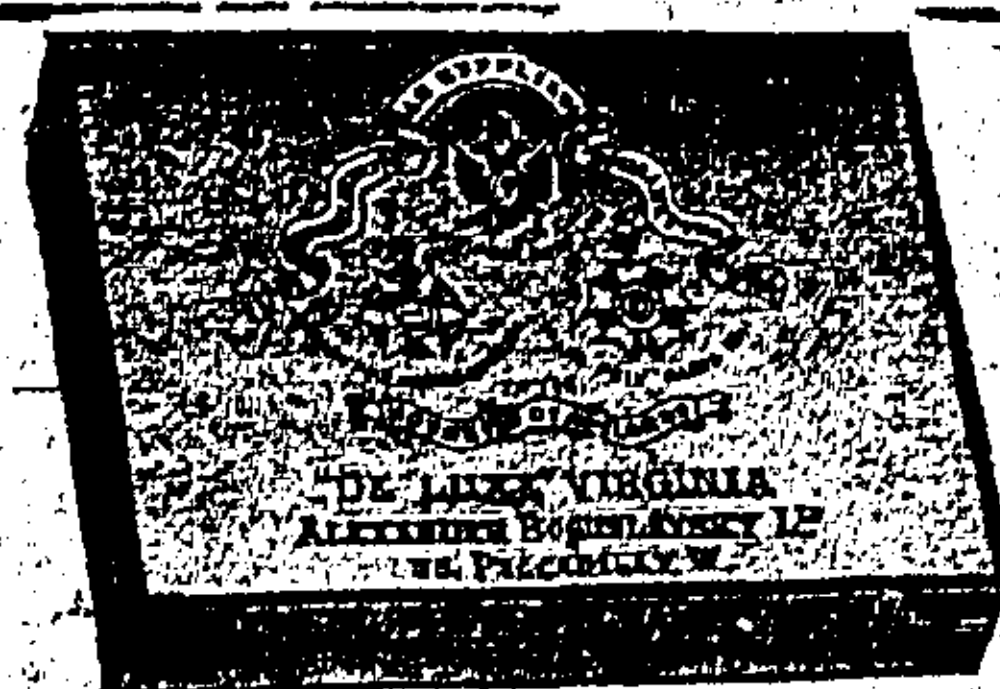
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## MAJOR CASSELL'S NAPIER.

VERDICT FOR THE UNITED MOTOR CO. ON THE CLAIM FOR DAMAGES.

Judgment was delivered yesterday in the Summary Court by the Puisne Judge (Mr. Justice Gompertz), in the action in which Major Cassel, of 100, The Peak, sued the United Motor Co., Ltd., for \$303 for damage alleged to have been done by unskilful work upon a 40-50 h.p. Napier car belonging to Major Cassel.

In his judgment, the Puisne Judge said: The plaintiff, on the counterclaim, asks for compensation for damage done to his car by the unskilful workmanship of the defendants. In order to succeed plaintiff must, of course, establish with reasonable certainty that the defendants actually did the specific damage complained of. There is conflicting evidence on some points, as usually happens when an action comes for trial after a delay of several months. But these conflicts are not perhaps very material. It is common ground that there had been trouble of various kinds with the car before it was put in the defendant's care and it had been through several hands before it reached them.

The plaintiff proves that after the defendants had been working on the car for some little time it was in a damaged condition. The defendants' reply is that, as to some portion of the damage, it had already been done when the car was handed over to them and, as to the rest, that they are not responsible as they had not, in fact, touched these parts of the car at all.

The evidence was lengthy and, in places, highly technical, and with the consent of both sides I have been favoured with the advice of the Hon. Mr. Messer, President of the Automobile Association, on technical points.

The essential weakness of the claim is that there is no very substantial evidence of the state of the car when it was handed over to the defendants. There is, of course, the chauffeur, but I was not particularly favourably impressed with his evidence. I shall deal with one point in it later.

There had been, as I have remarked, a certain amount of trouble with the car from the beginning. A Mr. Weir, who passing through the Colony with his mechanic Davis, had the car under observation for about a week towards the end of April. He had Davis appear to have overhauled it and to have done a certain amount of dismantling. They also re-timed the ignition. Now it would appear from the letter of the Napier Company to Major Cassel that Mr. Weir quite misunderstood the Napier system of timing. Other troubles were due to the difficulty in procuring appropriate lubricants, and no doubt also to the complicated mechanism of a very highly specialised engine. Further, there were complaints of the tools supplied with the car.

One early fault, the "buffing" or jerking, was satisfactorily adjusted by Weir and Davis. There is no record of what they did to the car, but it is quite possible that they took down the carburettor and other parts. Major Cassel admits that the jerking may have been due to trouble in the carburettor, or valves, or in the ignition. Mr. Cartwright, on one time suggested getting another carburettor. Mr. Scott states that the air pressure proved too low at an early stage and that this might possibly have been due to a defect in the carburettor.

I will take the heads of damage one by one, referring throughout to Mr. Rowe as the defendant. To begin with the carburettor: there was a dent on the engine-turned collar which the defendant admits being responsible for under circumstances which he details. The defect, he says, could be readily made good on a lathe. The cover of the oil cup was broken, it appears; by pure accident and he puts the cost of replacement at 20 cents. It is plain that Major Cassel did not wish the carburettor to be touched, but I may say that I am not satisfied that this was made clear to the defendant. There is nothing here on which I can give reasonably damages against the defendant, even if this point were pressed, and I understand that it is not.

As to the petrol-cock at the back of the petrol tank, it is admitted that the defendant reported to Major Cassel that the threads in the tank into which the cock screws were worn, that the cock leaked and that he could not make a tight joint. The plaintiff says that he had already ordered a new three-way cock which would make this cock unnecessary. He does not remember that the defendant told him that the plug in the cock had been ground in too far, nor that the best thing to do was to re-cut the hole and put in a new plug to serve until the three-way cock arrived.

But the defendant's evidence on these points is clear and straightforward. As he is not contradicted, I necessarily accept his story. This involves the conclusion that some rough or unskilful person had been meddling with this part of the car before the defendant saw it. The defendant states, furthermore, that he found the steel collar scratched and the enamel badly chipped. This evidence is corroborated by Engineer Grantham, who was not at all a bad witness. The defendant states that the chauffeur admitted to him that he had ground in the plug himself and I accept this statement against the chauffeur's denial. I think that the chauffeur had been tinkering here. There is no evidence at all that the enamel and the collar were undamaged when they reached the defendant. He says that they were not, and I am bound to find in his favour on this issue. I accept his story as to the petrol-cock and I think that he acted not unreasonably on the whole, under the circumstances of the case.

As to the engine pressure pump, I find no damage caused by the defendant's negligence. It is admitted that if he knew that a new pump had been ordered it was not unreasonable to insert a wooden plug as a purely temporary measure. Similarly with the other heads of damage, e.g., the cam-shaft cover, it is unnecessary to say more than that I accept the defendant's explanations which were clear and straightforward and are corroborated by Grantham.

It is plain to my mind that there had been careless or unskilful treatment of the machinery before the car reached the defendants. I find it impossible, on the evidence as a whole, to say definitely that Mr. Rowe is responsible for any material part of the damage—some of it, it is quite clear, was not done by him. It does not carry the case quite far enough when Mr. Scott says that the parts that he inspected were recently damaged. It is not for the defendant to prove by whom this was done. But Davies had been overhauling the car at a fairly recent date, and I am prepared to find as a fact that the grinding-in of the plug in the petcock was done by the chauffeur.

I have been most carefully through the whole of the evidence and have given my judgment the most earnest consideration. I think that a jury would have found the same difficulties that I have done, and would, therefore, pronounce for the defendant, as I am bound to do. Judgment is therefore entered for the defendants with costs.

The solicitor for the plaintiff on the counterclaim was Mr. F. G. Vaux (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) and for the defendant, Mr. G. G. N. Tinson (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master).

## "TEA MONEY" IN THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

A "Tea Money" Bill is still before the Council of the Straits Settlements in Committee. The following excerpt from the evidence of Mr. Carpman, Municipal Assessor to the Financial Commission is of interest:—

Mr. Hereford: Is there considerable advantage with regard to the amount of assessment which you might expect to collect from those houses where the practice of tea money is carried on where the houses are sublet at very much enhanced rents?—Do you mean, do we lose much money when tea money is paid?

Not only tea money but the subletting of the house at an enhanced rent by the tenant—I have come across houses which are let at say \$40 a month and I have known those sublet until the rent was over \$100 and, of course, there is a clear loss of assessment of the difference to us.

There is a very great deal of that in not there?—An enormous amount in fact down China-town most of the houses are sublet in floors and cubicles in that way. If it could possibly be done it would be worth while taking a good deal of trouble over it?—Yes, but I am afraid it would not be practicable.

You said you thought it might assist the Municipality if the practice of subletting at an enhanced rent was made illegal?—No, I said the taking of tea money ought to be made illegal unless it was specially reserved by a written agreement.

By tea money you mean the premium on the subletting of the premises?—It may not be on the subletting; it may be the first letting.

Is it not the case that the practice of tea money is carried on very largely in regard to houses which come within the provisions of the Rent Restriction Ordinance?—I believe there have been cases, but if it is found out there is a very heavy fine attached to it.

Yes, but my point is that it has been made illegal in regard to that class of property but the practice still flourishes all the same—I believe it does. Therefore, your proposal to make it illegal does not look as if it would be very much of a success?—What I would do is this, I say, it ought to be illegal unless reserved by a written agreement registered at the Land Office, with the Municipality. Then I would go further. If tea money is taken without an agreement I would have a heavy fine and I would also say that the tenant could recover the amount of tea money he paid.

Mr. Elias:—Do you not think that a fine would not be deterrent to these people and that imprisonment would be more effective?—I would have a fine for the first offence, and I would also make it a provision in addition that the tenant could recover the tea money he paid.

## FIT-U PINCE-NEZ

is the latest of the finger operated eye-glass mounting and has been designed to avoid all the objectionable features of this type of mounting. The long coil springs of the Fit-U prevent spring breakage, and can be instantly adjusted to give more or less pressure on the nose. The nose clips are of special shape to prevent slipping. Fit-U Pince-nez of any metal are obtainable from The Hongkong Optical Co., successors to Clark & Co., Manufacturing and Refracting Opticians, the most complete and up-to-date manufacturing establishment in the Colony, located in 33, Queen's Road Central—ADVT.

## INTIMATIONS

### RACE WEEK.

### A FANCY DRESS BALL.

In aid of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.  
on MONDAY, February 26th, 1923, 8.15 p.m.

### CITY HALL.

Tickets \$3 Booking at MOUTRIE.  
\$1 Fine for Non-Fancy Dress will be collected at the door.  
Two Lucky number Prizes for those in Fancy Dress (353)

### NOTICE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the business of the KUNG-KOW LOONG YIN (Kung Kow Loong Yin) has been transferred to the Kung Kow Loong Yin (Kung Kow Loong Yin) at No. 317, Queen's Road Central, Hong Kong, has this day been assigned to the undersigned who has not accepted the debts and liabilities of the said KUNG YOW LOONG YIN.  
Dated the 21st day of February, 1923.  
CHAN LAP (Y) [54]

THE DAIRY FARM, ICE & COLD STORAGE CO., LTD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Transfer Books of the Company will be closed from WEDNESDAY, the 22nd of February, to THURSDAY, the 23rd of February, 1923, both days inclusive, during which period no transfers of shares of shares can be registered.

By Order of the Board of Directors,  
M. MANUK,  
Secretary. [537]

HONGKONG HOTEL COMPANY LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF THE ABOVE COMPANY will be held at the HONGKONG HOTEL, Pender Street Victoria in the Colony of Hong Kong, on WEDNESDAY the 1st day of February, 1923, at noon for the purpose of considering and, if thought fit, passing the following Resolutions as Extraordinary Resolutions namely:—

- (1) That the Authorized Capital of the Company (which is now \$2,000,000) consisting of 500,000 shares of the nominal value of \$40 each—whereof 218,300 shares have been issued—be increased from \$2,000,000 consisting of 500,000 shares of the nominal value of \$40 each by the creation of 250,000 additional shares of the nominal value of \$10 each, ranking (subject as hereinafter mentioned) as from date of allotment for dividend and in all other respects pari passu with the shares constituting the Company's present issued Capital.
- (2) That 108,650 shares be offered (in the proportion of one new share for every complete number of two old shares held by them respectively) to the persons whose names are on the Register of Members of the Company as at the date of the confirmation of this Resolution as a Special Resolution.

| Date of Payment     | Amount payable in respect of the nominal value of each share | Amount payable in respect of the premium on each share | Total |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| 15th March 1923 \$3 | \$2                                                          | \$5                                                    |       |
| 15th Aug. 1923 \$3  | \$2                                                          | \$5                                                    |       |
| 15th March 1923 \$4 | \$1                                                          | \$5                                                    |       |
|                     | \$10                                                         | \$5                                                    | \$15  |

And further that until such time as the said 108,650 shares shall be fully paid up they shall be a lien on the said 218,300 shares, only rank for dividend in proportion to the ratio borne by the amount paid up thereon to the full nominal value (\$10) thereof, and that any of the said 108,650 shares which shall not be taken up by the Company's shareholders in manner aforesaid shall be disposed of in such manner as the Company's Board of Directors shall think fit.

(3) That the balance of the shares comprised in the Company's authorized Capital be issued at such time or times, in such manner and upon such terms and conditions in every respect as the Company's Board of Directors may decide.

(4) That no Shareholder shall be entitled to any offer of a fraction of an additional share in respect of any old share held by him.

Should the above Resolutions be passed by the requisite majority, they will be submitted for confirmation as Special Resolutions to a SECOND EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING to be held at the HONGKONG HOTEL, Pender Street aforesaid on FRIDAY the 17th day of February 1923 at 11 a.m. for the purpose of considering and, if thought fit, confirming such Resolutions as Special Resolutions accordingly.

Dated this Twentieth Day of January, 1923

By Order of the Board,

H. N. BAUREPATRE,

Secretary.

## PREPAID "WANTED" ADVERTISEMENTS

Letters are lying at this Office for:  
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**PARTICULARS AND CONDITIONS** of the letting by Public Auction Sale, to be held on **MONDAY, the 13th day of February, 1923, at 3 p.m.**, at the Office of His Excellency the Governor, by Order of His Excellency the Governor, of one Lot of **CROWN LAND** at Shamshui, in the Colony of Hongkong, for a term of 75 years commencing from 1st July, 1898, with the option of renewal at a Crown Rent to be fixed by the Surveyor of His Majesty the King, for one further term of 24 years, less 3 days.

PARTICULARS OF THE LOT.

| Lot No. | Boundary Measurements | Area           | Annual Rental | Upset Price |
|---------|-----------------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1       | 100 ft. by 100 ft.    | 10,000 sq. ft. | 100           | 10,000      |
| 2       | 100 ft. by 100 ft.    | 10,000 sq. ft. | 100           | 10,000      |
| 3       | 100 ft. by 100 ft.    | 10,000 sq. ft. | 100           | 10,000      |
| 4       | 100 ft. by 100 ft.    | 10,000 sq. ft. | 100           | 10,000      |
| 5       | 100 ft. by 100 ft.    | 10,000 sq. ft. | 100           | 10,000      |
| 6       | 100 ft. by 100 ft.    | 10,000 sq. ft. | 100           | 10,000      |
| 7       | 100 ft. by 100 ft.    | 10,000 sq. ft. | 100           | 10,000      |
| 8       | 100 ft. by 100 ft.    | 10,000 sq. ft. | 100           | 10,000      |
| 9       | 100 ft. by 100 ft.    | 10,000 sq. ft. | 100           | 10,000      |
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| 2       | 100 ft. by 100 ft.    | 10,000 sq. ft. | 100           | 10,000      |
| 3       | 100 ft. by 100 ft.    | 10,000 sq. ft. | 100           | 10,000      |
| 4       | 100 ft. by 100 ft.    | 10,000 sq. ft. | 100           | 10,000      |
| 5       | 100 ft. by 100 ft.    | 10,000 sq. ft. | 100           | 10,000      |
| 6       | 100 ft. by 100 ft.    | 10,000 sq. ft. | 100           | 10,000      |
| 7       | 100 ft. by 100 ft.    | 10,000 sq. ft. | 100           | 10,000      |
| 8       | 100 ft. by 100 ft.    | 10,000 sq. ft. | 100           | 10,000      |
| 9       | 100 ft. by 100 ft.    | 10,000 sq. ft. | 100           | 10,000      |
| 10      | 100 ft. by 100 ft.    | 10,000 sq. ft. | 100           | 10,000      |

PARTICULARS OF THE LOT.

| Lot No. | Boundary Measurements | Area           | Annual Rental | Upset Price |
|---------|-----------------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1       | 100 ft. by 100 ft.    | 10,000 sq. ft. | 100           | 10,000      |
| 2       | 100 ft. by 100 ft.    | 10,000 sq. ft. | 100           | 10,000      |
| 3       | 100 ft. by 100 ft.    | 10,000 sq. ft. | 100           | 10,000      |
| 4       | 100 ft. by 100 ft.    | 10,000 sq. ft. | 100           | 10,000      |
| 5       | 100 ft. by 100 ft.    | 10,000 sq. ft. | 100           | 10,000      |
| 6       | 100 ft. by 100 ft.    | 10,000 sq. ft. | 100           | 10,000      |
| 7       | 100 ft. by 100 ft.    | 10,000 sq. ft. | 100           | 10,000      |
| 8       | 100 ft. by 100 ft.    | 10,000 sq. ft. | 100           | 10,000      |
| 9       | 100 ft. by 100 ft.    | 10,000 sq. ft. | 100           | 10,000      |
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| 3       | 100 ft. by 100 ft.    | 10,000 sq. ft. | 100           | 10,000      |
| 4       | 100 ft. by 100 ft.    | 10,000 sq. ft. | 100           | 10,000      |
| 5       | 100 ft. by 100 ft.    | 10,000 sq. ft. | 100           | 10,000      |
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| 1       | 100 ft. by 100 ft.    | 10,000 sq. ft. | 100           | 10,000      |
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| 3       | 100 ft. by 100 ft.    | 10,000 sq. ft. | 100           | 10,000      |
| 4       | 100 ft. by 100 ft.    | 10,000 sq. ft. | 100           | 10,000      |
| 5       | 100 ft. by 100 ft.    | 10,000 sq. ft. | 100           | 10,000      |
| 6       | 100 ft. by 100 ft.    | 10,000 sq. ft. | 100           | 10,000      |
| 7       | 100 ft. by 100 ft.    | 10,000 sq. ft. | 100           | 10,000      |
| 8       | 100 ft. by 100 ft.    | 10,000 sq. ft. | 100           | 10,000      |
| 9       | 100 ft. by 100 ft.    | 10,000 sq. ft. | 100           | 10,000      |
| 10      | 100 ft. by 100 ft.    | 10,000 sq. ft. | 100           | 10,000      |

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

HONGKONG BOXING ASSOCIATION.

**NEXT TOURNAMENT** SATURDAY, February 28th, at the Theatre Royal—9.15 p.m.  
**NOVICES TOURNAMENT** FRIDAY, March 3rd, and SATURDAY, April 1st, at the Theatre Royal.  
Further particulars will be published later. [368]

DIOCESAN BOYS' SCHOOL, HONGKONG.

**NEXT TERM** begins on MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19th, 1923, at 8.45 a.m. All New Boys, Boarders and Day Boys should attend School on SATURDAY, Feb. 11th, 1923, at 10 a.m.  
W. T. FEATHERSTONE, Headmaster. [370]

A. G. DA ROCHA, AUCTIONEER, SURVEYOR.

Patronised with instructions from Miss Gossard will sell by Public Auction on FRIDAY, 16th FEBRUARY, 1923, at 2.30 p.m., at No. 53, HOLLYWOOD ROAD, A LARGE QUANTITY OF SPLENDID HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE AND EFFECTS

Comprising:—  
Brass and Iron Bedstead, Chesterfield Chairs and Couch, Dining Table, Sideboard, Marble Washstand, Overmantel, Glassware, and Crockery, Dinner Set, Drawing Room Suite, Hatstand, Electric Ceiling and Desk Lamps, Best Quality Carpets, Ice Chest, Large Mirror, Frames, Stair Carpet, Cushions, Fish Gong, Electric Ceiling Lamps

also  
One Victrola and Records...  
10 Tonkin Silk Hand Embroidered, Red Cover, Pictures.  
4 Very Special Chinese Hand Painted Pictures.  
One Enamelled Bath.  
Note.—The above Furniture is mostly of Powell's make and is in very good condition.  
Catalogues will be issued. [371]

UNION WATERBOAT COMPANY LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

**THE SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS** will be held in the office of Messrs. DODWELL & CO., LTD., at 11.30 a.m. on THURSDAY the 15th day of February, 1923, for the purpose of receiving the report of the General Managers together with a statement of accounts to 31st December 1921.  
The Transfer Books of the Company will be closed from the 6th to 16th February 1923 both dates inclusive.  
DODWELL & CO., LTD.  
General Managers. [333]

CITY HALL.

SIXTH PIANO-RECITAL to be given by HARRY ORE

on MONDAY, Feb. 13th, at 8.30 p.m.  
Booking at Anderson's. [332]

NOTICE

**WE HEREBY NOTIFY** that Mr. ERNEST W. BLACKMORE M.A., Civil Engineer, has taken over the management of the Hongkong branch of our firm, will sign per pro. from date, and will be seconded by Mr. UGO GONELLA.  
**ETABLISSEMENTS BROSSARD MOULIN**, Architects and Civil Engineers, Hongkong. [323]

CREDIT NATIONAL 1923.

ISSUE OF NEW BEARER BONDS REDEMPTIBLE IN 10 YEARS

FRS 500.00  
each bearing interest at the rate of 6% per annum  
free of tax.  
Reimbursable at holder's option as follows:—  
On 1st February 1924 for FRS 500.—  
On 1st " 1927 for FRS 507.50  
On 1st " 1932 for FRS 525.—  
No price.  
Price of issue including 1st coupon due on 6th February 1922 payable cash on application FRS 492.—  
Subscriptions received at BANQUE DE L'INDO-CHINE, HONGKONG.  
on or before February 28th, 1922. [324]

HONGKONG HOTEL

GRILL ROOM

**THE USUAL DINNER DANBART** will not be held on FRIDAY, 16th February, 1922. [351]

ON SALE

HONGKONG HARBOR REPORTS

of the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL for the session 1919.  
Revised by the Members  
PRICE ...  
DAILY PRESS OFFICE

INTIMATIONS

THE HONGKONG & KOWLOON WHEAR & GODOWN CO., LTD.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS

**THE THIRTY-FIFTH ORDINARY ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS** will be held at the Office of MESSRS. JARDINE, MATHESON & CO., LTD., on FRIDAY, February 10th, 1923, at 11 a.m. for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Directors and the Statement of Accounts for the year ended December 31st 1922.  
The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from WEDNESDAY, February 1st, 1923 to February 10th, 1923 both days inclusive.  
By Order of the Board of Directors, W. S. BROWN, Secretary.  
Hongkong, January 26th, 1923. [357]

THE KOWLOON LAND & BUILDING COMPANY LIMITED.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the THIRTY-THIRD ORDINARY MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS in this Company will be held at the Company's Office, Victoria Buildings on FRIDAY 10th February, 1923, at 12 o'clock noon for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Directors together with the Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st December 1921.  
The REGISTER OF SHARES of the Company will be CLOSED from WEDNESDAY, 1st February to FRIDAY, 10th February, both days inclusive, during which period no transfer of shares can be registered.  
By Order of the Board of Directors, MOWBRAY B. NORTHCOTE, Secretary.  
The Hongkong Land Investment & Agency Co., Ltd., General Agents for The Kowloon Land & Building Co., Ltd.  
Hongkong, 23rd January, 1923. [356]

THE GREEN ISLAND CEMENT CO., LTD.

THE THIRTY-THIRD ORDINARY ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SHAREHOLDERS

in the Company will be held at the Office of the Company, St. George's Buildings, Chater Road, Victoria, Hongkong, on THURSDAY the 16th day of February 1923 at 11 o'clock in the forenoon for the purpose of receiving a Statement of Account and Report of the Directors for the year ending 31st December 1921, and of electing a dividend.  
The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from MONDAY the 6th February 1923, until THURSDAY the 16th February 1923, both days inclusive.  
By Order of the Board of Directors, SHEWAN, TOMES & CO., General Managers.  
Hongkong, 1st February, 1923. [316]

HONGKONG HOTEL COMPANY, LIMITED.

PROPOSED NEW ISSUE OF SHARES TO MEMBERS ON THE REGISTER

on 7th February, 1923.

THE TRANSFER BOOKS OF THE COMPANY

will be closed from the 18th to 25th February, 1923, both days inclusive.  
Dated the 7th February, 1923.  
By Order of the Board, H. N. BEAUREPAIRE, Secretary. [343]

HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

that the ORDINARY YEARLY MEETING of the SHAREHOLDERS in this Corporation will be held at the City Hall, Hongkong, on SATURDAY, the 16th day of February, 1923, at Noon, for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Directors together with a statement of accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1921.  
The REGISTER OF SHARES of the Corporation will be CLOSED from MONDAY, 6th February, to SATURDAY, 16th February, 1923, (both days inclusive), during which period no transfer of shares can be registered.  
AND NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an EXTRAORDINARY MEETING of the SHAREHOLDERS of the HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION will be held on the day and at the place aforesaid immediately upon the termination of the Ordinary Yearly Meeting for the purpose of considering and if thought fit of passing the following resolution, viz:—  
That the Directors of the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation be and they are hereby requested and authorized by and on behalf of the shareholders of the Corporation to take the steps necessary for the introduction of an Ordinance into the Legislative Council of the Colony of Hongkong and for the enactment of the same by the Governor of Hongkong with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof to effect the amendments necessary to the Ordinances under which the Corporation is incorporated and carrying on business so as to allow of the ordinary note issue of the Corporation being increased to \$20,000,000 (being the limit of the present paid up capital of the Corporation) and to modify the existing requirements as regards the deposit of security in respect of its note issues in such manner as:  
(a) to relieve the Corporation from the necessity of keeping with the Crown Agents or with Trustees appointed by the Secretary of State coin or bullion as security against any part of the ordinary note issue and to give the Corporation the option of securing such portion of the same (at the option of the Corporation) either of coin or of securities approved by the Secretary of State.  
(b) to relieve the Corporation of the obligation to keep at each of its establishments an amount of coin or bullion equal in value to 1/3rd at least of the notes issued from such establishment and actually in circulation and to leave such matter to the discretion of the Corporation.  
(c) to allow the Corporation to keep portions of the coin or bullion required to be deposited with the Colonial Secretary and the Colonial Treasurer as security against the excess note issue (viz the issue beyond \$20,000,000) in places outside the Colony where its notes are issued to such amounts and subject to such conditions as may be approved from time to time by the Governor.  
By Order of the Court of Directors, A. G. STEPHEN, Chief Manager.  
Hongkong, 24th January, 1923. [372]

INTIMATION

CHAMPAGNE

de ST. MARCEAUX & CO.

REIMS.

Vintage 1911.

(Guaranteed).

The finest vintage wine since 1884.

Champagne de St. Marceaux & Co, Reims, is considered one of the finest Champagnes produced.

It invariably figures in the Menus at State Banquets, Civic functions, Regimental Dinners; and is served in all the leading Social and Sporting Clubs of Great Britain, Europe

America, India and the Colonies.

SOLE AGENTS:—

A. S. WATSON & CO. LTD.,

Wine & Spirit Merchants.

ESTABLISHED 81 YEARS.

TELEPHONE 618.

Hongkong Office: 104, Des Voeux Rd., C.

London Office: 121, Fleet Street, E.C.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, FEBRUARY 27th, 1923.

WASHINGTON CONFERENCE RESULTS.

The Washington Conference has adjourned sine die. It will form, possibly, the first of many similar conferences.

President Harding has characterized the Conference as "the first deliberate effective expression of the Great Powers in the consciousness of peace and of war's utter futility." Its primary object and its greatest achievement has been to secure a large measure of relief from the burden of armaments. Mr. Lloyd George has told the House of Commons that the decisions of the Conference "will save millions this year." Not only will millions be saved to Great Britain but to each of the nations that participated in the Conference. Nor is it only for one year that these savings are effected; the Naval Agreement practically limits the Naval expenditure of nations for the whole period of the term of fifteen years. It does not, of course, preclude the possibility of a still further general reduction of naval strength in the meantime. It will be the constant aim and object of a large section of the public in all countries of the world to secure further reductions as the cultivation of closer international relations proceeds.

The replacement of the Anglo-Japanese Treaty of Alliance by a Four Power Treaty to ensure peace in the wide regions of the Pacific Ocean is another achievement by the Conference of conspicuous value and importance. His Majesty the King in his speech at the opening of Parliament happily expressed the sentiments of his subjects throughout the world on this change when he declared that he is happy to feel that the long-standing concord between Great Britain and Japan will remain as cordial as ever, while, at the same time the relations be-

COMPANY REPORT.

GREEN ISLAND CEMENT CO. LIMITED.

The report for presentation to the shareholders states:—  
The Board of Directors have now to lay before the shareholders a statement of accounts, and balance sheet for the year ending 31st December, 1921.

The gross profit for the year is \$1,754,302.88  
The amount brought forward from the previous year is 197,824.62  
\$1,952,127.50

After allowing for the interim dividend paid in September last \$200,000.00  
Directors' and auditors' fees, etc. 6,605.50  
Writing off 10 per cent for depreciation on the Company's buildings, machinery, launch, lighters, etc. 64,903.93  
\$ 271,509.48

The balance to be dealt with is \$1,680,617.90 which it is recommended should be applied as follows:—  
To pay a final dividend of \$3 per share \$1,200,000.00  
To place to reserve fund 25,000.00  
To place to reserve for new plant at Hok Tin Works 250,000.00  
To bonus to staff 35,000.00  
And carry forward to the credit of next year's account 100,617.90  
\$1,610,617.90

Directors.—Since the last annual meeting Mr. L. N. Lee resigned and Mr. J. Bell-Irving was invited to join the Board, which requires confirmation.

In accordance with section 12 (14) of the Articles of Association Mr. R. G. Shawan and Sir Paul Chater, C.M.G., retire, and being eligible offer themselves for re-election.

Auditors.—The accounts have been audited by Messrs. Linde and Davis and Messrs. Lowe, Bingham and Matthews who are eligible for re-appointment.

WARWICK COMEDY COMPANY.

ADDITIONAL NIGHTS CANCELLED.

A large audience last night witnessed Oscar Wilde's famous satire, "A Woman of No Importance," and greatly enjoyed the witty and sparkling dialogue



## CABLES.

LATEST CABLES.  
(THROUGH ROUTES' AGENCY.)OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.  
HIS MAJESTY'S REFERENCE TO  
THE PACIFIC PACT.

MR. LLOYD GEORGE'S SPEECH.

LONDON, February 7th.

In the House of Lords, seconding the reply to the Address, Lord Cresswell said he thought that what had been done at Washington regarding spheres of influence in China was a result on which we ought to congratulate ourselves and everybody concerned.

Lord Curzon termed the naval treaty concluded at Washington a great achievement. He paid a tribute to President Harding and Mr. Hughes and referred to the final disappearance of all fear of aggression in the Pacific.

WHAT CHINA HAS GAINED AT  
WASHINGTON.

LONDON, February 8th.

The advantages accruing to China from the Washington Conference were enumerated by Lord Curzon in the course of his speech in the House of Lords. He pointed out that at a time when nobody can contend that China presents the spectacle of a strong Government or a united people she was admitted to the conference table on a par with the great World Powers. In addition to the recognition of Manchow, Shantung, and Weihaiwei he believed that France intended to restore Kwangchowang. China would perhaps not have got these and other advantages in half a century if the promises of the old diplomacy had been pursued. It only remains for her, now that this great opportunity is afforded her, to embrace the chance given to show that she is worthy of a destiny comparable with her great natural strength, her resources and the place numerically filled by her population in the eastern world.

## EARLIER CABLES.

LONDON, February 7th.

The State opening of Parliament took place with the usual ceremonial.

## LATER.

The King's speech, on the opening of Parliament, referring to the Washington Conference, says that, while the four-power Pacific treaty replaces the Anglo-Japanese alliance, he is happy to feel that the long-standing Anglo-Japanese concord will remain as cordial as ever at the same time that Anglo-American relations will enter a new era in an even closer phase of friendship. The disarmament treaty provides a large measure of relief from the burden of armaments. In all these respects, great results had been attained by the success of the Conference, for which the world owes a deep debt of gratitude to the initiative of the President of the United States, and which would be the happiest augury for future international relations.

## RETRENCHMENT NECESSARY.

In regard to the Estimates for the coming year, every effort would be made to reduce public expenditure to the lowest possible consistent with the security and efficiency of the State and with public obligations. In view of the necessity of relieving citizens to the utmost from heavy burdens, Parliament would soon be invited to consider measures necessary to give effect to the Irish agreement. A Bill of indemnity would also be submitted.

In regard to unemployment, the only remedy is the appointment of international rivalries and suspicions and the improvement of the conditions of trade throughout the world. His Majesty trusts that the Geneva conference will establish the peace of Europe on a fair basis and settle the many important questions arising from the pressing need of financial and economic reconstruction.

Proposals will be submitted to Parliament for the reform of the House of Lords and for the adjustment of differences between the two Houses.

## RESULTS AT WASHINGTON.

LONDON, February 7th.

The House of Commons was crowded at the opening of the new Session. Moving the Address to the Throne, Capt. D. H. Hackard said that the results of the Washington Conference had been more successful than the most sanguine anticipated. The Pacific Treaty was an epoch in the annals of the Empire. He paid a warm tribute to Mr. Balfour.

LABOUR LEADER ON THE  
CONFERENCE.

The Right Hon. J. R. Clynes (Labour) said that the Washington Conference kept us very closely to the arithmetic of armaments, but the naval agreement was a positive gain, especially if it could be viewed as the first step towards a greater reduction of armaments and better relations among the naval Powers of the world. He was entirely hopeful.

(Continued at foot of next column.)

## LATEST CABLES.

## U.S. HOTEL FIRE.

A NUMBER OF PEOPLE MISSING.

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA, Feb. 8th. Fire destroyed the Lexington Hotel where there were seventy-two guests, a number of whom are missing. Three bodies have been recovered. Twenty-five people were severely injured, mostly by leaping from windows.

ORIENTALS IN CANADA.  
IMPORTANT SUPREME COURT  
FINDING.

OTTAWA, February 8th.

The Supreme Court has upheld the validity of the British Columbia statute prohibiting the employment of Japanese or Chinese on crown lands or provincial public works. The judgment declares that the treaty between Canada and Japan signed in 1913 does not limit and does not affect the province's legislative jurisdiction.

FRENCH MILITARY SERVICE.  
PERIOD REDUCED TO EIGHTEEN  
MONTHS.

PARIS, February 8th.

The Finance Committee of the Chamber approved the new military service bill after hearing M. Poincaré who said that the Government's idea "was eighteen months' military service. This was only a stage towards reduction to twelve months. The Government would do its utmost to ensure that the military estimates for 1923 did not exceed those for 1922.

GENOA CONFERENCE.  
FRENCH NOTE URGES POST-  
PONEMENT.

LONDON, February 8th.

The Westminster Gazette states that a French Note has been received in London urging the postponement of the Genoa Conference for three months.

however, of ever maintaining the peace of the world by any process of measuring the instruments of war. He hoped that Washington was only the beginning of conferences which would lead to a definite arrangement ending, finally, in the disarmament of the world for the purposes of war.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND  
FRANCE.

Mr. Lloyd George said that the Washington Conference was one of the greatest achievements for peace in the history of the world. He paid a tribute to Mr. Balfour, and emphasised that the Conference would save millions this year. Mr. Lloyd George urged the necessity of giving France a guarantee, thus restoring her confidence and leading to that chain of judgment which was vital to wise decisions. Germany must be made to feel that a policy of revenge would not pay. We were in honour bound by the guarantee given by Mr. Wilson and Mr. Balfour at the Versailles Peace Conference.

Replying to Sir Donald Maclean, Mr. Lloyd George said that a full opportunity for discussion of any pact would be given. As regards Labour complaints concerning unemployment, Mr. Lloyd George pointed out that the Government was spending over a hundred millions yearly in relief.

## ADJUSTMENT OF WAR DEBTS.

Mr. Lloyd George said that Britain was quite willing to discuss the adjustment of war debts if all creditor and debtor nations came in, but could not force her claims when there were heavy ones against her.

The Geddes report would be laid before the House at the end of the week. The Government did not feel justified in following some parts, but was prepared to adopt suggestions involving most drastic cuts in expenditure.

## PROPOSALS REGARDING EGYPT.

Definite proposals regarding Egypt would be announced after the discussions with Lord Allenby. We were willing to meet all the Egyptian people's legitimate national aspirations and to abandon the protectorate upon the fundamental conditions of safeguarding Imperial communications *et cetera*.

## PATIENCE REGARDING IRELAND.

A Bill will be introduced immediately giving the Irish Provisional Government the authority at present vested in the Imperial Government. This was most urgent to enable the Provisional Government to deal with problems like unemployment. It might then be found desirable to seek the opinion of the electors of Ireland on the Treaty. The body so elected would have to frame a new Constitution. The Premier emphasised that the unsuccessful meeting between Mr. Collins and Sir James Craig was only the second; patience was required. The boundaries question would only arise after the Constitution had been incorporated in an Act of Parliament. He concluded by stating that legislation carrying the treaty into effect would be submitted in due course.

## HELP FOR AUSTRIA.

Mr. Lloyd George, replying to a question, said the Government proposed, pending the United States' suspension of the Austrian Loan, to advance to Austria upon good security the balance of over two millions of the ten millions voted for Mid-Europe. He believed France was also prepared to make an advance.

## LATEST CABLES.

COURT OF INTERNATIONAL  
JUSTICE.MR. WANG APPOINTED SUPPLE-  
MENTARY JUDGE.

THE HAGUE, February 8th.

The Court of International Justice has appointed Mr. Wang, China, supplementary judge.

AMERICA'S GOOD FAITH.  
NO NEW GUNS FOR THE  
PHILIPPINES.

WASHINGTON, February 8th.

The Secretary for War has cancelled orders for new guns to replace those in the fortifications in the Philippines as an evidence of good faith in carrying out the new treaty.

DR. NANSEN AND RUSSIA.  
HONORARY MEMBER OF MOSCOW  
SOVIET.

REVAL, February 8th.

A message from Moscow states that Dr. Nansen has been appointed an honorary member of the Moscow Soviet in which there 1,447 communists out of a total of 1,650.

## TREATIES TO GO TO SENATE.

WASHINGTON, February 8th.

President Harding hopes to send the treaties resulting from the Armament Conference to the Senate at the end of this week or the beginning of next.

## ITALIAN POLITICAL CRISIS.

ROME, February 8th.

Signor Denicola has declined to form a Government.

## SOUTH AFRICAN TROUBLE.

PRETORIA, February 8th.

The Conference between the Prime Minister and the strikers' representatives ended without a settlement.

## EARLIER CABLES.

REPUBLICAN RESOLUTION NOT  
TAKEN SERIOUSLY.

JOHANNESBURG, February 7th.

The resolution demanding a republic emanated from the East Rand, which reefs are the storm-centre. It was moved by Mr. Waterston, a Labour legislator who styles himself Major-General, but his army is largely regarded as a laughing-stock.

Enthusiasm among the so-called commandos, which are endeavouring to remove officials from the essential services, is waning. The police have hitherto refrained from arresting the leaders.

The conference between General Smuts, the Chamber of Mines, and the workers' representatives proved fruitless. A mass meeting at the Town Hall resolved upon denouncing the republican movement.

## OFFICIAL LABOUR'S REPUTATION.

CAPETOWN, February 7th.

Mr. Boydell, leader of the Parliamentary Labour Party, has repudiated the Waterston resolution. He said the Labour Party is pledged to maintain the Constitution. A nationalist republic would be a social and economic disaster.

When twenty members of Parliament and of the Provincial Council met a deputation conveying the Johannesburg resolution in favour of a republic, the Nationalist members repudiated a revolutionary movement, saying that their object was to secure a republic by constitutional means.

## LATEST CABLES.

GANDHI'S OFFER:  
TWENTY-TWO LOYALISTS KILLED  
AT GORAKHPUR.

CALCUTTA, February 8th.

The revised death-roll of loyalists at Gorakhpur is twenty-two. The riot was directly due to Gandhi's picketing loyal landowners in the bazaar.

## INDIA'S OVERCROWDED GAOLS.

DELHI, February 8th.

It was announced in the Legislative Assembly that the Government was temporarily resuming transportation to the Andaman Islands in consequence of the serious overcrowding of gaols.

## EARLIER CABLES.

INDIAN GOVERNMENT'S FIRM  
REPLY.

LONDON, February 7th.

The Indian Government has issued a statement in reference to Gandhi's offer as set out in a cable yesterday. The statement declares that his demands are such that no Government could even discuss them. Civil disobedience is fraught with such danger to the State that it must be met with sternness and severity. The Government is confident that in taking measures for its suppression it can rely upon the support of all law-abiding citizens.

## LATEST CABLES.

BERLIN STRIKES.  
RAILWAY COMMITTEE AGREES TO  
RESUMPTION.

BERLIN, February 8th. The railway strike committee has called off the strike. The municipal workers have not yet decided.

EARLIER CABLES.  
SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATIONS WITH  
THE GOVERNMENT.

BERLIN, February 7th. At the conclusion of the negotiations of the part of the Imperial Chancellor and the Minister of Finance with the representatives of the workers and officials of their organisations, the latter accepted the Government's pledge immediately to adjudicate upon wages and other questions as a suitable basis for calling off the strikes.

BANQUE INDUSTRIELLE.  
THE SENATE COMMITTEE'S BILL.

PARIS, February 7th. The Senate Finance Committee's Bill regarding the Banque Industrielle authorises the French Government to negotiate in accordance with the Chinese Government a credit operation, destined to safeguard the material and moral interests of France by the use of France's share of the Boxer indemnity, an operation which is intended to refloat the Banque Industrielle de Chine.

COMMERCIAL AVIATION.  
NOT LIKELY TO BE SUCCESSFUL  
FOR MANY YEARS.

LONDON, February 7th. Colonel Guest, Secretary of the Air Department, presiding at the Imperial Air Conference at the Guildhall, said the prospect of commercial success in aviation in Europe could not be realised for many years, but the outlook from the Imperial viewpoint was of the brightest. They must concentrate their efforts on distances which could not be bridged except by air, notably from England to India.

CRICKET IN AUSTRALIA.  
"BENEFIT" FOR OLD TEST MATCH  
PLAYER.

SYDNEY, February 7th. The cricket match between the Australian touring side and the Rest of Australia for the benefit of the ex-Test match player, Iredale, realised £1,740. The Rest scored 383 and 302 for 5 wickets (declared) while the touring side registered 403 and 250 for 4; the match being drawn.

THE UNION JACK.  
NEED ST. PATRICK'S CROSS BE  
TAKEN OUT?

The proposed new status for Ireland has raised the question whether it will be thought necessary or desirable to alter the design of the Union Jack and the Royal Coat of Arms. In official circles, says a London paper, nothing has been heard to suggest that such a step was in contemplation. Incidentally, it was pointed out that the expense of an alteration would be very considerable. Some years ago there was a demand from Irish quarters that the blue ground of the golden harp on the Royal Standard should be changed to green. On looking into the matter it was estimated that the alteration would cost at least £20,000. To remove all reference to Ireland in the present Union Jack and Royal Arms would, of course, involve a very much greater expense. If any action is taken it will be done by his Majesty in Council, no Parliamentary sanction being necessary.

The Rev. E. E. Doling, a recognised authority on heraldry and author of "Coat of Arms of England," in conversation with a Morning Post representative said: "The Irish harp has formed part of the accession of King of England since the accession of James I. in 1603, and to take it out because Ireland has been given Dominion status would be, in my opinion, deplorable. I think it is most unlikely that it will be done. A change might well have been made at the time when King Edward VII. assumed the additional title of Emperor of the British Dominions beyond the seas. But nothing was done. Until Ireland herself demands it, I think it is not for us, the predominant partner, to say that we are going to leave her out of account in our national flag and Royal coat of arms."

THE UNION JACK  
CREW.

The Union Jack assumed its present form in 1801. The old battle standard of England was the St. George's flag—a white flag with a red cross. That continued until 1603, when Scotland's flag, a white St. Andrew's cross on a blue ground, was incorporated by James I. It remained in that form until 1801, at the time of the Union of Ireland with England, when a St. Patrick's cross, red on a white ground, was added. That was done by "quartering" the red and the white, so that there was a white and red alternately. This was superimposed on the blue ground on the Union Jack, the white, adding to the crosses or saltire being rendered necessary owing to the immutable heraldic law that colour must not rest on colour.

On inquiry at the office of the Royal Society of St. George, a representative of the Morning Post was informed by the Secretary that he had been making inquiries but had been able to ascertain nothing definite regarding the probability of any change in the national flag. He thought, however, that it was more than likely that some alteration would be made. He suggested that it might be a good thing if the Union Jack were allowed to remain as it is with the addition of some Irish emblem, like the shamrock or harp.

## LATEST CABLES.

ANNUAL MEETING OF UNION  
CHURCH.

The annual meeting of seat-holders of Union Church, held last night, was largely attended. Mr. A. S. D. Cousland, who presided, remarked that there had not been so large an attendance for many years and he hoped seat-holders would continue thus to show their interest in the business side of Church life.

The proceedings began in a rather formal way with the hon. secretary reading the sections of an "ordinance" concerning those entitled to vote at meetings of the "said Church" but ladies present derived some little amusement from a stipulation that voters must be over 21 years of age. One or two touches reminiscent of a company meeting were introduced at the beginning but the assembly brightened up considerably when listening to a happy little speech from Mrs. Macdonachie and later was applauding enthusiastically Mr. G. McLeod, who sang in the interval during which the scrutineers counted the votes for the new Committee. The meeting showed an enthusiasm for voting which augured well for the success of an extension of the franchise. Others who kindly filled what would otherwise have been cheerless intervals during vote-counting were Mrs. E. E. Doune and Mrs. McLeod. Miss McNeillie was the accompanist. Before the meeting Mr. E. J. Chapman gave a recital on the organ which was much enjoyed.

## ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRMAN.

The Chairman expressed the regret of the meeting that the Rev. Mr. Macdonachie was not able to be present; he had returned from hospital but was not yet sufficiently recovered to attend a meeting. Reviewing the work of the year, the Chairman mentioned that the collections for special objects had been given, during the past year, in full to the objects concerned; it had been felt by the Committee that the Church could now afford not to make a deduction of the average amount of the usual collection. No extensive repairs had been undertaken during the year, but they would be necessary in the near future so it behoved members to keep up their weekly offerings. It was noted that a considerable number of seat-rents were in arrears. The outstanding event of the year was the endowment of \$50,000 by Sir Paul Chater. Mr. Macdonachie had dealt fully with this so that nothing he (the Chairman) could say was needed to bring it home to members that this generous gift must be regarded as a call to go forward in new directions for the advancement of the Kingdom of God in this Colony. The Committee's report was then adopted.

## THE LADIES' COMMITTEE.

Mrs. MACDONACHIE presented the report of the Ladies' Committee. She remarked that it was largely taken up with an account of the activities of the working party. Ridicule was often fast upon work of this kind in a certain type of fiction but Mrs. Macdonachie said that the ladies' working party at Union Church always worked harmoniously and happily, and did not spend its time in talking scandal (laughter and applause). She advised ladies of the congregation that it would be quite a good thing for as many of them as possible to come and help.

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS-REARER.

Mr. J. L. McPherson proposed that Mr. A. S. D. Cousland be elected trustee of the Church.

Mr. E. B. GIBBY seconded, and this was carried.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that Mr. Cubey be re-elected hon. secretary. The Rev. E. B. WILKS seconded and this was carried amid applause.

Mr. F. E. RANGER was re-elected hon. treasurer on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. McKENZIE.

It was resolved to appoint a Committee of 12, instead of 10 as heretofore, exclusive of the treasurer and the secretary. The following were appointed:—Messrs. A. S. D. Cousland, A. T. Hamilton, E. B. Dorey, J. Rodger, G. M. Shaw, C. O. Hickling, W. Davison, J. L. McPherson, A. Stevenson, J. McCubbin, and P. D. Wilson and Dr. R. M. Gibson.

At the suggestion of Mrs. MACDONACHIE, the membership of the Ladies' Committee was increased from 13 to 14. The following were appointed:—Mrs. Macdonachie, Mrs. McKenzie, Mrs. McCubbin, Mrs. Cousland, Mrs. Shaw, Mrs. Milne, Mrs. Hamilton, Mrs. J. Henderson, Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Cubey, Mrs. Tompkins, Mrs. Dorey, Mrs. Hickling and Mrs. Ranger.

On the proposition of the Rev. E. B. WILKS, votes of thanks were accorded to the secretary and treasurer for their work during the year; also to the two committees, to Mr. Bernard Brown (the auditor) to those who had contributed to the evening's programme and to the chairman for presiding.

## LATEST CABLES.

UNBELIEVED FAMINE IN  
CHINA.EIGHT PROVINCES AND 15,000,000  
PEOPLE AFFECTED.

## CANNIBALISM REPORTED.

The China International Famine Relief Commission, in Peking, has issued a report surveying the serious famine situation with which China is faced again, throughout a large number of provinces.

## NICE DESTRUCTION IN FOUR PROVINCES.

Representatives of the International Relief Societies, who met recently in Peking, were surprised at the severity of the famine as revealed by their study of the situation. During the autumn of last year the floods of the Yellow and Hwai River basins caused immense destruction in Shantung, Anhui, Kiangsu and Honan, and a recent report from Shantung was to the effect that in large districts the land is still covered with water.

As the result of an ice jam on the Yellow River, dykes were broken and people were driven to their house tops owing to the flood—the temperature then being zero. The loss made rescue work very difficult, and it was not possible to secure sufficient workers.

## DROUGHT IN HUNAN.

In Western Hunan, there is very severe distress from drought, and a message from Yenchow states that many people there have already died from starvation, while many thousands are in a starving condition. At least 100,000 will need help at once, and in two months' time this number will have increased to half a million. If help is not forthcoming, the report says, "we cannot stay here and see the dying of so many people. Famine fever takes away many people. Rice itself has been eaten. Many are killing their children, by drowning or poisoning, to prevent slow starvation, which we see daily."

In Hupeh, the most severely affected districts are along the Han River and one section of the Yangtze, and a mission report states that this is the most severe flood in this region for a period of 50 years.

The International Committee recognize famine conditions in eight provinces—Kiangsu, Anhui, Shantung, Hunan, Chahang, Hupeh, Honan and Shensi. In these provinces there are 123 *hsien* very seriously affected, and 133 in the second class, and there is a total of 15,500,000 destitute. Appeals have, further, come from Szechuan, through reliable sources, and these are being investigated.

## UNRECORDED APPEALS.

In Kweichow there is undoubtedly distress, but largely due to the planting of large areas with opium, as well as to banditry, in this connection it is worthy of mention that the International Committee only recognize distress due to natural causes and, therefore, have not recognized Kweichow as in the famine area. Kansu and Kiangsi have made appeal, but are unsupported by the evidence of foreigners.

## SOME MOVING FIGURES.

The distress as investigated by the International Committee is shown by the following table:—

| Province       | Cases | Very Heavily Affected | Heavily Affected | Destitute |
|----------------|-------|-----------------------|------------------|-----------|
| Kiangsu Flood  | 19    | 28                    | 3,000,000        |           |
| Anhui Flood    | 20    | 21                    | 3,000,000        |           |
| Shantung Flood | 23    | 13                    | 2,800,000        |           |
| Hunan Drought  | 31    | 16                    | 4,500,000        |           |
| Chahang Flood  | 9     | 17                    | 1,200,000        |           |
| Hupei Flood    | 17    | 21                    | 1,500,000        |           |
| Honan Flood    | 20    | 21                    | 1,500,000        |           |
| Shensi Flood   | —     | —                     | 1,000,000        |           |
|                | 123   | 133                   | 15,500,000       |           |

The hardest time will be in the spring, when, it is expected, all resources will be exhausted. All families that have happened hitherto have shown that the severest distress is apparent at that time.

At present only \$5,000,000 are available to meet the situation, including the Maritime Customs surtax, which continues through February. More than twice this amount is needed to prevent utter disaster, and the International Committee are investigating every possibility of resources.

PROPOSED CHANGE IN THE  
YEAR'S LENGTH:

## A WORLD CONFERENCE IN ROME.

There is to be a great gathering of doctors of theology in Rome in April to reform the calendar and provide for fixed instead of movable feasts.

The greatest astronomers and scientists in the world will be there also. At the conference it is proposed to put an end to the fixing of Easter by the time of the Paschal moon. The year, it is proposed, will have 364 days and exactly 52 weeks. There will be two months of thirty days and one of 31 in each quarter.

The greatest innovation is to be the "nameless day," or "dies non." It will fall between the last day of December and the first day of January. It will, however, belong neither to the old nor to the new year. Time will stand still on that day. Business will also come to a complete standstill, as merchants will not be able to enter the day in their books because it is not included in the calendar.

Christmas will always come on Monday and Easter always on April 14th. The year 1923 is ideally suited for the introduction of the new calendar, because under the present Gregorian system it begins on a Monday.

But the decision of the Conference will need to be adopted by the Governments of the world before these changes in the calendar can be made.



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| 29 x 3 1/2                | ... | ... | "                      | 36.00             |  | 5.50   |  |
| 30 x 3 1/2                | ... | ... | "                      | 45.00             |  | 7.50   |  |
| 31 x 4                    | ... | ... | "                      | 55.00             |  | 8.50   |  |
| Millimeter Sizes Fabric   |     |     |                        |                   |  |        |  |
| 175 x 105                 | ... | ... | Clincher               | 86.00             |  |        |  |
| 895 x 105                 | ... | ... |                        | 73.00             |  |        |  |
| 815 x 120                 | ... | ... | "                      | 80.00             |  |        |  |
| 880 x 120                 | ... | ... | "                      | 82.75             |  |        |  |
| 880 x 135                 | ... | ... | "                      | 85.00             |  |        |  |
| 895 x 135                 | ... | ... | "                      | 99.00             |  |        |  |
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| 32 x 3 1/2                | ... | ... | Straight Side Non Skid | 85.00             |  | 8.01   |  |
| 32 x 4                    | ... | ... | "                      | 115.50            |  | 9.75   |  |
| 33 x 4                    | ... | ... | "                      | 120.00            |  | 10.50  |  |
| 33 x 4 1/2                | ... | ... | "                      | 122.00            |  | 11.00  |  |
| 33 x 4 1/2                | ... | ... | "                      | 130.00            |  | 11.50  |  |
| 33 x 4 1/2                | ... | ... | "                      | 135.00            |  | 11.75  |  |
| 34 x 4 1/2                | ... | ... | "                      | 137.90            |  | 12.00  |  |
| 35 x 4 1/2                | ... | ... | "                      | 138.50            |  | 12.25  |  |
| 35 x 5                    | ... | ... | "                      | 145.00            |  | 13.00  |  |
| 35 x 5                    | ... | ... | "                      | 155.00            |  | 13.50  |  |
| Inch Sizes Nobby Cord     |     |     |                        |                   |  |        |  |
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## MILLIONS LOST IN SHIPPING SLUMP.

"THE WORST FOR 50 YEARS."

Millions of pounds have been lost in the heavily-capitalised Welsh shipping industry a Cardiff message points out and this is typical of the struggle through which practically every industry has been struggling. There has been a record coal trade slump, but in South Wales American competition has now been successfully overcome by selling the total output at serious loss at prices against which the U.S. exporters could not contend. As regards shipbuilding an Evening News representative was informed that 90 per cent. of British building and repairing firms are without any orders for the New Year. The old year is bequeathing a legacy of trouble to shipbuilders and it is feared that January will witness a fresh series of discharges in the shipyards of the north.

Fully 90 per cent. of the shipbuilding and ship repairing firms are without any new orders for the New Year," said a leading shipbuilder to *The Evening News*. As the work in hand is nearing completion many more must be added to the ranks of the unemployed in the New Year. Already the shipbuilding industry has the highest percentage of unemployment 34.5 of the insured trades. While the reduction in railway rates will be of some help," added our informant, "it would be folly to think that it will be of immediate benefit in influencing orders. The trouble is that the present costs of production are about 100 per cent. over market values even with the substantial reductions that have been obtained in raw materials. Steel for instance has fallen from £27 10s. to £10 per ton and there have been big reductions in wages. The cost of production in shipbuilding at the present time is from about £16 to £17 10s. per ton whereas market values are only about £8 per ton for a typical cargo ship and cargo ships are the backbone of the industry. Export opinion, therefore is that the worst days of the slump in the shipyards are not over."

When the year opened the official price of Welsh steam coal was 90s. a ton but there was an abundance of orders (writes a Cardiff correspondent). The drawback is that the present selling price is several shillings below the cost of production. During the period of Government control the demand of the Labour extremists caused concessions to be made to them which ultimately proved beyond the capacity the industry could support. Undoubtedly the industry at this period was making large profits but rightly or wrongly the bulk of these profits was swallowed up by the Government, so that when control was finally removed last March the Welsh colliery companies discovered that their financial resources were inadequate to meet current needs.

The most severe blow which the Welsh coal trade received during the present year was the great strike which lasted through the months of April, May and June. This enabled the Americans to get in, and for a period they held the European markets by making contracts which covered many months in advance.

### AMERICANS BEATEN.

Later the Americans were beaten out of this preserve of the Welsh coal trade, and during November last South Wales exported nearly two million tons. For a long time after the war, however the Americans held a hold on the European market, and as recently as October 1929, they exported five million tons to Europe. In October the figure had fallen to 150,000 tons while at the present time American coal exports to Europe have fallen to vanishing point.

This industrial victory has only been achieved at great sacrifice and it is understood that Welsh coal is being sold at a very serious loss for some months past, with the result that quite a number of important Welsh colliery companies are not expected to pass their next dividend. Welsh coal has fallen in price to such an extent that the Americans simply cannot compete. Of course the Welsh miners' wages have also fallen away sadly and there is no doubt that they are suffering real privation at the present time. So numerous are the orders on the books of the colliery company now, however, that even more coal could be exported if the Welsh docks in South Wales were capable of coping with the rush of trade. One of the commercial tragedies of South Wales during the past year has been the collapse of several shipping companies. The public have lost millions of money in share capital. Moreover the end of these tragedies has not yet been reached.

### THE FREIGHTS SLUMP.

The price of steamers in the early part of 1929 reached as high a figure as £30 a ton. Recently ships have been sold as low as just over £1 a ton. Freight rates are certain to go even lower, but there is likely to be a concurrent reduction in working costs. From the shipping shareholders' point of view it is a pathetic fact that freights are now relatively lower than they were in 1914. The various metal industries in South Wales have also suffered severely from the general slump and there has been a great deal of unemployment. However, nearly 50 per cent. of the Welsh tinplate mills are now working as compared with 40 per cent. two months ago.

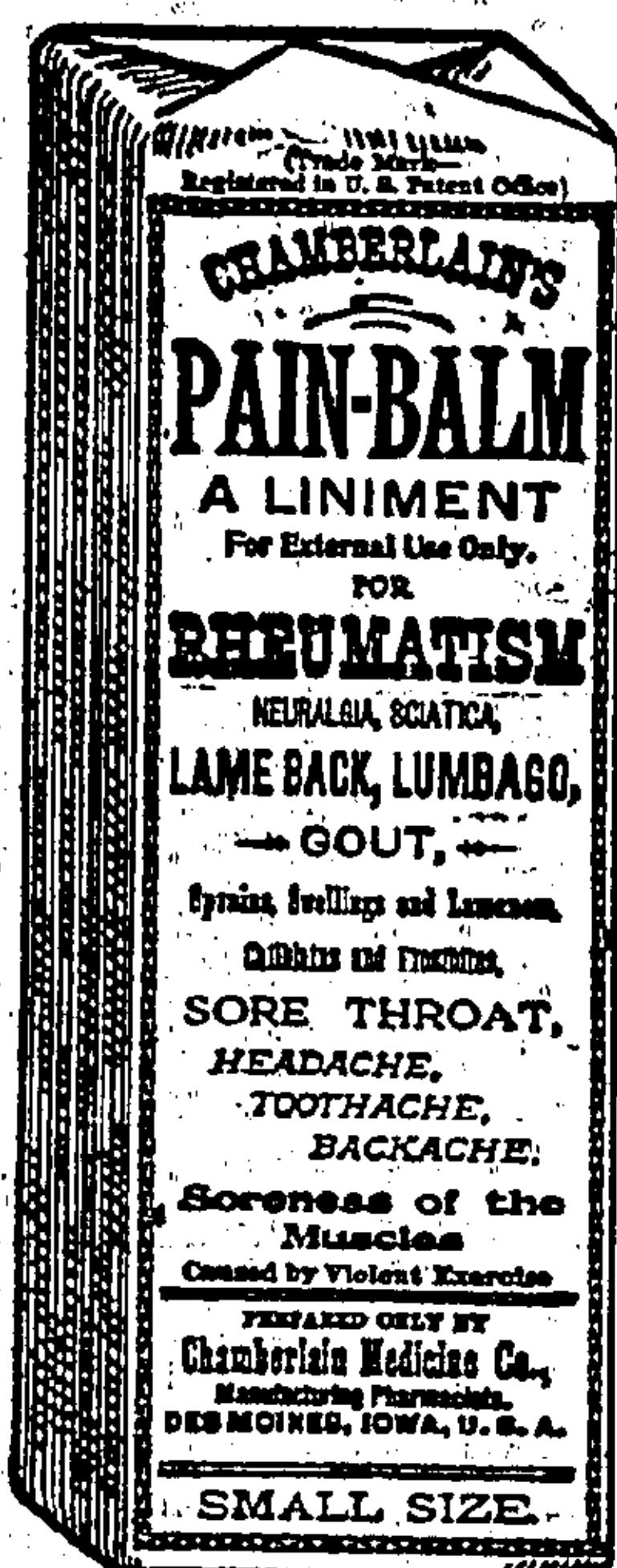
### NEW ENGLISH LANDED GENTRY.

The advent of a new "landed gentry" in England since the war is made plain by "Burke's," an annual work of reference on that subject which has reappeared after a break of seven years. Over 100 names of old landowners have disappeared since the last edition and their places have been taken by double that number of new-owners. In the preface the editor remarks: "Much as the passing of old families from the land or the diminution of their holdings is to be regretted the rise of a new class of landed gentry possessed of means enabling them to develop estates which had become impoverished through the misfortune of their previous owners cannot be without benefit to the country."



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